

UNIFIED ARIZONA VETERANS (UAV) , P.O. BOX 34338, PHOENIX, AZ 85067

MINUTES OF THE UAV GENERAL MEETING

HELD ON JUNE 6, 2009, AT ARIZONA STATE VETERAN HOME,

4141 N. 3rd St., Phoenix 85012

Call to Order: The regular business meeting of the Unified Arizona Veterans was called to order at 10:00 a.m. by Chairman Mel Brody with proper ceremonies.

The roll was called and a quorum established for conducting business.

Presentation of Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Scholarships to Student Volunteers:

Paige Catherine Sieu, a resident of Tucson, AZ

Albert Justus, a resident of Surprise, AZ

Congratulations to Paige and Albert! Presentation made by Frank Schmuck, President; and Jesse Gersten, Treasurer; of the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame Society, Phoenix, AZ

Presentation – Ann Theodosis, Executive Director, Phoenix Military and Veterans Hospitality Room at Terminal 2, Sky Harbor Airport, presented that the Hospitality Room has been operating for 31 months. In December 2008, the Hospitality Room was open 3 weekends, 24-hour days, 1000 visitors. 953 persons visited the Hospitality Room in May 2009, this year the average number of visitors is 400 each month. Donations to keep the Hospitality Room operating are welcome. Address for checks is: Phoenix Military Veterans Commission Foundation, Inc., PO Box 13313, Phoenix 85002, Attn: Military and Veterans Hospitality Room.

Motion to approve the Minutes made by George Cushing and seconded by Bernie Kaplan. Motion carried.

Communications and Correspondence: Letters have been received from US VETS and Madison Street Veterans Association (MSVA) requesting to join the UAV.

Treasurer's Report presented by Treasurer Jesse Gersten who confirmed that UAV now has liability insurance coverage (Alpha Company). Motion to accept the Treasurer's Report made by Lew Bradley and seconded by George Cushing. Motion carried.

Sickness and Distress: No report – Chaplain Bohach

REPORTS

1. **Congressional Offices – Tom McCanna, Senator McCain's office, called everyone's attention to the VFW's report on the PTSD issue.**
2. **VA Medical Center, Patient Advocate Sarah Nelson reported the Thunderbird Clinic at 25th and Dunlap is set to open on July 13.**

3. National Memorial Cemetery – Wayne Ellis reported completion of the crypt project. Wayne thanked the State Dept of Veterans' Services for the memorable May 16th reburial ceremony (Historic Soldiers Relocation Project) in Sierra Vista, AZ, attended by 4,000 people. He also thanked the National Memorial Day Committee members who worked diligently to put on a fine Memorial Day commemoration ceremony and program.

4. Dept of Veterans' Services – Mike Klier, representing Director Strickland, reported that the Director is attending an MOPH meeting and that Deputy Director Bob Barnes is attending a K WV meeting. Five veterans benefits counselor positions are needed, however, funding support from the Legislature must happen first. \$10 million will stay in the 2010 budget, the Dept will know more in September/October.

Dave Hampton, Dept Public Affairs Officer, reported that the Legislature voted on the budget, but did not submit it to the Governor. The disagreement between the Governor and the Legislature is one billion dollars (Governor sees a 4 billion dollar shortfall, the Legislature sees a 3 billion dollar shortfall). The problem is multi-faceted (a \$306,000 lump sum budget reduction, a reduction of 9 employees, inability to hire needed benefits counselors, a delay in capital improvements at the State Veteran Home, a problem with the State Veterans Cemetery Fund). The Senate will begin hearing bills next week.

5. UAV Board of Directors – Chairman Brody reported that several of the items covered in the Board Meeting will be addressed in Unfinished Business and New Business.

6. UAV Legislative Committee – Chair Carol Hamburger reported that the Copper Shield Award Nomination Form is being updated. The Legislative Committee plans to meet before the September 5th UAV meeting.

UNFINISHED/OLD BUSINESS:

1. **Copies of revised UAV Bylaws were distributed as part of the printed Agenda – Chair Brody**
2. **Class of 2009 AZ Veterans Hall of Fame – Chair Brody reported the Selection Committee completed its deliberations in May, and the Selected Nominations package was hand-carried to the Governor on June 4th. Also, three members of the Facilities and Banquet Sub-Committee traveled to the Shrine Auditorium on May 27th to finalize menu arrangements.**

NEW BUSINESS

1. Letters requesting to join the UAV – Chairman Brody received 3 organization requests to join the UAV. The Board recommends approval of the US VETS and the Madison Street Veterans Association (MSVA). Both organizations are recognized by the State Dept of Veterans' Services. Motion made by Judy Hatch and seconded by Lew Bradley to approve US VETS and MSVA as UAV members. Motion carried.

2. Invitation to Governor Brewer regarding Sept. 5th UAV Meeting – Chair Brody announced that he has invited Gov Brewer to speak to UAV Organization Representatives at the September 5th, 2009 meeting of the UAV. A follow up letter will be sent to the Governor next week.

FOR THE GOOD OF THE ORDER

- 1. David Lucier, Tempe Veterans Association, thanked people who participated in the City of Tempe's Memorial Day Celebration.**
- 2. Honor and Remember Flag information presented by Lionel Sanchez on behalf of Bill Messer, President, Arizona State Council, Vietnam Veterans of America.**
- 3. June 26-27, 2009: First Annual Arizona Military Women's Conference is scheduled at the Radisson Phoenix City Center Hotel (Chair Brody).**
- 4. July 4, 2009: July 4th Event at Tempe Town Lake, also Luke AFB, and Glendale Community College.**
- 5. July 10, 2009: Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund's "Wall That Heals" is scheduled for Flagstaff, AZ, July 9-12, 2009.**
- 6. 50/50 Raffle winner was Mike Clemenson, \$34.00, with \$34.00 to the treasury.**

CLOSING & ADJOURNMENT

- 1. The next UAV meeting is scheduled for Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009.**
- 2. Closing prayer was given by Chaplain Bohach.**
- 3. The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m. with a closing salute to the flag.**

Respectfully submitted,

Carol Culbertson, Secretary, Unified Arizona Veterans

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